Dear Jim, 4/22/74

Last night I got almost six almost uninterrupted hours of sleep and I was able to get out of bed this morning without real pain, merely discomfort. Some of the other symptoms linger. A cough or a sneeze is still like a knife thrust into the chest and now the back. The discomfort is much less but is less localized.

All in all I feel encouraged. So, I think that as the day wears on I'll try to use the right arm more. If I can I will make copies for you of all you can need for 2502-73, as we discussed it last night.

I did not have much time to think about this last night. We had pleasant company before you called and while we were speaking more came, Lil's sister and a friend. I did a bit before falling to sleep and a bit more this morning after getting up.

I like your new idea very much. I'm sorry I didn't think of it myself, although it is included in my original allegation, and I did tell you about it in discussing Rankin's affidavit.

But I think that what you seem to plan is more than is necessary and it does present a certain jeopardy to me that I will address here.

One of the things that had me so angry at Bud for those months he wasted for me at the time I did the investigating for the Ray habeas corpus petition is that had I not had to be ready momentarily to go to work on it, had he ever been truthful with either one of us, I could have laid that all aside and finished a book that is well started and I then had very much organized and contained in my mind. It is Agent Oswald. It is a book that should have better commercial prospect than anything I have done in years. Five or six chapters were then done. I had submitted this to a friend at Bantam. He went for it big. He got another editorial opinion that confirmed his. There was a policy decision against it but there was for me the assurances that this is an acceptable book with editorial if not policy approval.

I run a certain amount of risk for the common good in this suit. The suit in itself endangers the book and all the enormous amount of work that went into it. How else do you think I can dip into files and come up with goodies for you each time you want one? I am quite willing to run all necessary risk. But I want to avoid any not necessary. This is a field that is now dominated by the irresponsibles and it always has had a fair share of crooks. There is also a history of guilty officialdom, when it saw the chance of killing what I was getting at, giving away what it was denying me to those who could get extensive attention for wrong slants, killing the honest accounts. Two examples are the family-GSA contract and these very executive sessions. Now I don't want to attract any attention to the fact that all you have to do is write a letter and enclose a check and duplicate all this work I have done. This is a kind of selfishness but it is much more:I have done what others have not and I believe cannot and I can and will do a more definitive work, at least before the whole story comes out, if it does, than anyone else is likely to.

I am not talking about Paul's competitive book. I have continued to give him all I get, sometimes confidentially, so he will know. But these other thankless things on which I have engaged have put me at a pronounced competitive disadvantage even with him.

So, I will undertake, if I am up to it, to copy and give you all the sheets to which you referred, just as I volunteered to give you copies of all the relevant pages of the essential executive session. However, unless you think that attaching them is vital, I prefer that you not. Instead, we can swear to them. The transcripts are all numbered seriatim. We can say there were 99 transcripts of which the first 66 were all classified Top Secret and thereafter there were so many Top Secret, so many Confidential and none not

classified one way or the other, whatever the statistics are. We should accomplish the same thing this way, perhaps more, and if they lie about it to the judge again, we can, if need be, go back with the proof.

We will thus have accomplished your purpose. As I understand it, this is addressed to the deceptive phrase in Rankin's affidavit, that he had "certain" of the transcripts classified whereas he had them all classified and prior th Ward and Paul none was.

I havex in mind more than this, too. You got only part of it when I asked last week if you had thought ahead.

If we win, as we should and I think can, and they appeal, what then?

Paying the costs will be an extraordinarily difficult problem, if not impossible. Each extra page is an added problem.

So, use what you think is necessary. But what is not really necessary, I would prefer not be used as a copy. It can be included in my affidavit. If it is completed, we can add a statistical addendum to it. If I can, I will have this prepared for you. And if it does not seem to be adding to whatever this is I have, I will take it easy later today and make all these copies for you. In some cases I may have duplicates already made. I know I do have some laid aside with the book's backstopping, but digging that up would take more physical effort.

We are both too preoccupied to think of everything in advance. If this had come up earlier I might have arranged for some student volunteer help. Please bear this in mind for through the summer because there are two mature women who, unless tending their kids precludes it, will help with such work. Both have offered to hep me through the summer and both seem trustworthy enough to do some work at their own homes. One is in the city of Frederick and the other is only about 20 minutes away, toward Washington.

Later in the summer, when I hope I'll have no difficulties other than trying to keep up with what grows, Lil will be able to do some of this. But she now has bookkeeping accounts to bring up to date for those who have messed their own records up. Plus the regular bookkeeping.

But I do want you to try to keep in mind that I want to run no unnecessary risk with what I think can be a successful book and one that can help us much. If I had a clear month I could complete it and it would be hot as hell.

Why else do you believe there is all this resistance on this suit? Even to the extent of misrppresenting to and deceiving a judge whose explosive potential is known?

Sincerely,